1340

COMIC SHOP NEWS

HARBINGER WARS

War: A Harbinger of Things to Come

ver since Valiant's launch, readers have asked when the publisher might launch its first crossover event. The question has been answered: ***Harbinger Wars*** is coming, and both ***Harbinger*** and ***Bloodshot*** will be caught up in the turmoil.

The event, which launches in April, will lead to the first confrontation between the characters of the two ongoing series. While the story will play out prominently in ***Harbinger*** and ***Bloodshot,*** this war's primary theater of operations will be found in the four-part ***Harbinger Wars*** miniseries.

This isn't a hastily-thrown-together event, as Executive Editor *Warren Simons* explained. "The foundations of ***Harbinger Wars*** have been in the works for over a year at this point in time. You can trace the evolution of this storyline to the earliest issues of ***Harbinger,*** when Peter Stanchek and his best-pal Joe Irons are on the run from the walking memory block known as 'Dull Tull' and his enigmatic employers, Project Rising Spirit. The opening pages of ***Bloodshot # 1***—when Bloodshot is dispatched to Afghanistan to solve a very dangerous problem—are also at the genesis of ***Harbinger Wars***. While we have a comprehensive publishing plan, it's also critical from an editorial standpoint that the titles stand on their own, and these elements enhance the books, but aren't their *raison d'être.*

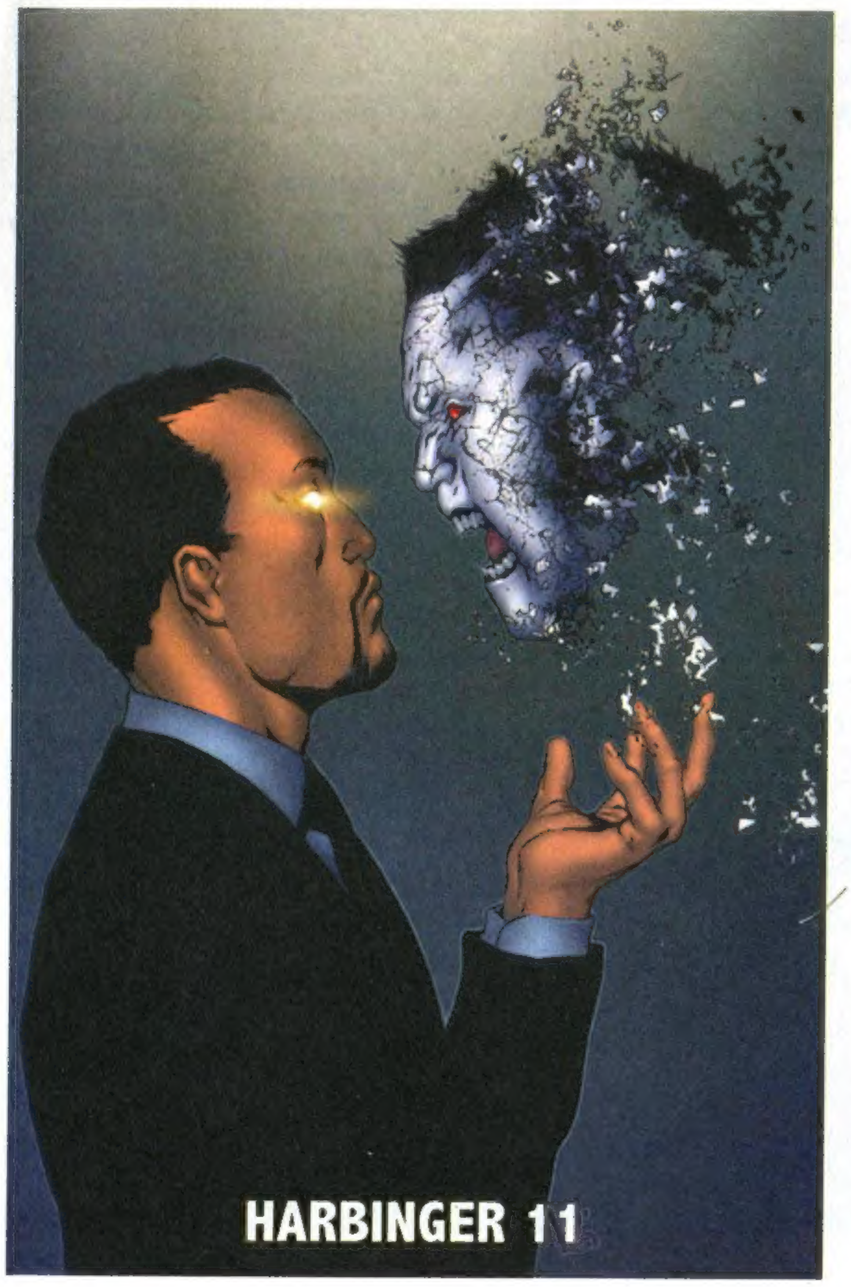
"We are building this so readers can just buy ***Harbinger Wars*** and get the entire story—and it's a kick-ass story, if I might add. You can also only buy ***Bloodshot*** or ***Harbinger,*** and these titles will work on their own. If you buy all three, you enter the *realm of Awesome*!... But that's up to you."

What exactly is the storyline of ***Harbinger Wars?*** "For years, Project Rising Spirit has been capturing and experimenting upon super-powered children," Valiant publisher *Fred Pierce* explained. "Once, they employed Bloodshot as their primary 'Harbinger Hunter.' Now, with his free will restored, Bloodshot has broken his former prey out of a PRS facility and released them into the world. The introduction of these untrained, untested, and unwieldy super-powered children into the Valiant Universe, however, will have massive and unexpected repercussions.

"Three forces will descend on these kids each with their own agenda in mind. Bloodshot wants to train them. Toyo Harada wants to manipulate them into his Harbinger Foundation. And Peter Stanchek and the Renegades want to draft them into their war against Harada.

"But all three are going to find out that the kids have plans of their own about what the future may hold."

Bloodshot co-writer *Duane Swierczynski,* who is co-writing ***Harbinger Wars*** with ***Harbinger*** writer *Joshua Dysart,* offered some insight as to how the story came about. "First, there was a lot of conversation at our creative retreat, then a flurry of emails, and finally this mammoth document containing pretty much everything we wanted to do with the crossover. That, however, was just the beginning. Next came mapping out the story beats, to make sure the three different points of view presented in ***Bloodshot, Harbinger,*** and ***Harbinger Wars*** were both interconnected in a smart way, but could be enjoyed separately. Just thinking about it makes my head hurt a little bit..."



What is the nature of Bloodshot's involvement with the teenage harbingers? Will his course of action lead to direct conflict with Peter Stanchek and Toyo Harada, or will he end up uniting with one against the other? "Something big happens at the end of ***Bloodshot #9*** that completely changes his worldview," Swierczynski said. "Up until now, he's been fairly self-absorbed, trying to figure out who he was and how he came to be a walking, unkillable science experiment. But in the ***Harbinger Wars*** arc, he'll realize there's more to the world than just him, and he's capable of so much more than simple revenge."

What about the structure of the event? Will the core story take place in ***Harbinger Wars,*** with the two related titles expanding on that, or is in effect a twelve part arc running through four issues each of three different series? "The primary story runs through ***Harbinger Wars,*** and the tie-in story arcs beginning in ***Bloodshot #10*** and ***Harbinger #11*** will stand on their own," Pierce said. "However, if you pick up all twelve issues you'll fully be able to appreciate the scope, scale and intensity of Joshua and Duane's ***Harbinger Wars*** saga."

"Readers can enjoy any of the three arcs separately—all will contain complete stories," Swierczynski added. "But of course, I'm hoping readers will want to check out the other two books, and I'm hoping ***Harbinger*** fans might want to give ***Bloodshot*** a try. One of Valiant's greatest strengths during its original run was its tight, interlocked universe, and we want to give readers the same kind of thrill today."

"Was there a reason Valiant chose not to expand it into the other titles as well? "***Harbinger Wars*** is our first family crossover and will be featured in three titles: ***Harbinger Wars,*** a four-issue limited series, as well as four issues of the ongoing ***Harbinger*** and ***Bloodshot*** books," Simons replied. "As with every Valiant title, story is key, and we didn't want to produce crossover books that crossed over simply for the sake of crossing over, if that makes sense. Every title has a clear and defined purpose."

Pierce reiterated that this is a storyline that has been in development even before the launch of ***Harbinger*** and ***Bloodshot***. "This is a natural extension of everything that *Joshua Dysart* and *Duane Swierczynski* have been building towards in their books since day one—and it's also the first time that we've gotten the chance to fully reveal our hand as a 'shared universe' of characters. The genesis of the ***Harbinger Wars*** actually began as a crossover arc between the two core titles, ***Bloodshot and Harbinger,*** but eventually the story expanded outward to an even grander scale, to the point where the only thing that could do it justice was the addition of a stand-alone limited series—a first for Valiant!"

Obviously, ***Harbinger Wars*** involves both Bloodshot and Harbinger—but will any other Valiant characters play a role in the series, and will any other new characters and/or titles spin out of it? "There's a whole *host* of new faces cropping up within the ranks of the escaped harbinger children," Pierce said. "But longtime Valiant fans should keep their eyes peeled—there will be a few familiar names returning to the fold as well!"

How different will the Valiant Universe be *after* this than it was before? "***Harbinger Wars*** represents the first, full-on public exposure to superhumans that the Valiant Universe has ever seen," Pierce said. "Up until now, the actions of the Harbinger Foundation and PRS have been a closely guarded secret. As you'll soon see in the pages of ***Harbinger Wars #1,*** their secret conflict is about to boil over in the heart of a major American metropolis. There will be no putting that particular genie back in the bottle – and the casts of both ***Bloodshot*** and ***Harbinger*** are going to feel the consequences."

"There will be profound, fundamental changes to the Valiant Universe after the family crossover," Simons added. "If there weren't, it wouldn't be fun—and we wouldn't be Valiant!"

Is it safe to assume that a crossover event like this requires a great deal of editorial coordination? "The entire Valiant Universe requires a great deal of editorial coordination!" Simons replied. "We are launching a company and rebuilding a universe, and that is an extraordinarily work-intensive endeavor that requires an intense amount of planning, preparation, and coordination. I am currently working with some of the finest writers and artists in the industry, and these creators have been immensely professional and collaborative, which is one of the key reason we've had such a great level of success to date. A free flowing exchange of ideas is paramount to the success of the books, whether that's on an individual issue of a standalone book or the first issue of a crossover."

Valiant has also announced a ***Harbinger Wars Free Comic Book Day Special;*** will this be a new story or selected reprint pages from the miniseries? "The solicit copy for the ***Valiant 2013: Harbinger Wars FCBD Special*** says, 'Everything you need to know about the Valiant Universe in 2013 happens right here,' and that is 100 percent true," Pierce said. "It will contain not only a key sequence of ***Harbinger Wars #1,*** but also special advance looks at we have cooking in all the other books across the line – including X-O Manowar in 'Planet Death,' ***Archer & Armstrong #0,*** and the upcoming new arc of ***Shadowman***. And, of course, some more of the top secret content and teasers that made last year's book such a huge hit with fans and retailers!"

To celebrate the launch of Valiant's first family crossover, the publisher is offering another first: interlocking Pullbox Exclusive variant covers by ***Harbinger Wars*** artist *Clayton Henry.* "Valiant's Pullbox cover program is designed to give our dedicated fans something special for supporting our ongoing series," Pierce said. "Now, with ***Harbinger Wars*** gearing up to launch not only a standalone mini-series, but new story arcs in ***Harbinger*** and ***Bloodshot*** too, the time was right to try another first for Valiant – three interlocking Pullbox covers showcasing the true scope of the first crossover event for the new Valiant Universe."

It all begins on April 3rd with the premiere of ***Harbinger Wars #1*** by *Joshua Dysart, Duane Swierczynski, & Clayton Henry,* with cover art by *Lewis Larosa.* The book will also be offered with a Pullbox Variant cover by *Clayton Henry,* a 1-for-20 incentive variant featuring cover art by *Clayton Crain,* and a 1-for-50 incentive variant featuring cover art by *Patrick Zircher.* A week later, ***Harbinger #11*** by *Joshua Dysart & Khari Evans* is scheduled for release with cover art by Evans; it, too will feature a Clayton Henry Pullbox variant cover, as well as a 1-for-20 variant with cover art by *Patrick Zircher.* Then, on April 17th, *Duane Swierczynski & Barry Kitson* present ***Bloodshot #10,*** with cover art by *Mico Suayan.* There will also be a *Clayton Henry* Pullbox variant edition, as well as a 1-for-20 incentive variant featuring cover art by *Lewis Larosa.* Check with the helpful staff of your friendly neighborhood comic shop for info on price and availability of the variant covers.

by Cliff Biggers

Courtesy your friendly neighborhood comics outlet!

COMIC SHOP NEWSARAMA

Produced by *Comic Shop News* in cooperation with *newsarama.com*

X Marks the Spot for IDW

It's been more than a decade since fans last thrilled to the televised exploits of Fox Mulder and Dana Scully; and almost five years since their last appearance on the big screen. But the duo are reclaiming their place in popular culture as they return to comics later this year, courtesy of IDW.

During its time on the air, the ***X-Files*** achieved a fan-favorite status that rivalled such legendary series as ***Star Trek.*** The show's complex mythology and deeply interwoven continuity paved the way for later shows like ***Fringe.*** But the end of the TV series, and the lackluster performance of the post-series film ***The X-Files: I Want to Believe,*** left fans with limited hope of more ***X-Files*** tales.

Then came the WildStorm/IDW joint production of ***30 Days of Night/The X-Files,*** a crossover comic book series that brought Scully and Mulder to Alaska to investigate gruesome murders that appeared vampiric in nature. Since then, Mulder and Scully have been as hard to find as the answers they sought in their many X-Files cases. That's about to change, however.

"Few shows have captured the zeitgeist and fans' imaginations like ***The X-Files*** and fewer shows still have left people hungry for more in the way this one did," said *Chris Ryall,* IDW's Chief Creative Officer/Editor-in-Chief. "Our new series will be picking up where the second film left off, which will hopefully be as exciting for fans to read as it is for us to develop."

"The fans of ***The X-Files*** have remained loyal to the series since its conclusion. What better way to continue the show's legacy and give back to them than through new stories in a different medium?" said *Jeffrey Godsick,* President of Fox Consumer Products. "IDW has worked with a number of our Fox properties, and we know they're going to do great things with these iconic characters."

"***The X-Files*** is a classic property that helped redefine fans' expectations for the science-fiction and horror genres," IDW's President/Chief Operating Officer *Greg Goldstein* added. "The possibilities for new comic stories are virtually unlimited!"

IDW plans to launch their new ***X-Files*** series in June; at the same time, they will unveil a comprehensive reprint plan to collect the various ***X-Files*** comics published between 1995 and 2009.

The Morrison, the Merrier

Grant Morrison fans, prepare to celebrate: there's one more Morrison issue of ***Action Comics*** in the pipeline!

"The final ***Action Comics*** storyline by writer *Grant Morrison* and artist *Rags Morales & Brad Walker* is so big that a single issue can't contain it!" DC announced in an email to retailers. "Now DC Comics announces this Superman epic will continue into ***Action Comics #18!"***

Action Comics #17 will now be a 40-page issue priced at $3.99; it should be in stores even as you read this. But the *real* Morrison finale will reach comic shops on March 6th with the release of ***Action Comics #18,*** an extra-length 48-page issue by Morrison with art by *Rags Morales, Brad Walker, Cam Smith, & Andrew Hennessy* that DC said "is destined to be a milestone in the New 52—and that's all we can say about it for now!"

Along with the change of contents comes a trio of variant covers: an order-based variant cover by *Paulo Rivera,* a 1-for-100 black and white variant cover featuring art by *Rags Morales,* and a "We Can Be Heroes" blank variant cover. Check with the folks at your friendly neighborhood comic shop for info on price and availability.

Andy Diggle & Tony S. Daniel are now slated to begin their ***Action Comics*** run in early April with the release of ***Action Comics #19.***

Up and Adamantium!

We told you about this last year, but we the sheer size of Marvel's upcoming ***Wolverine: The Adamantium Collection HC*** doesn't fully impress itself upon you until you see a photo of someone (in this case, editor *Sana Amanat)* holding a copy of the massive compendium. The book is more than a foot tall, 720 pages long, and weighs in at more than 16 pounds; inside its pages, readers will find some of the most memorable tales from Wolverine's storied history, including:

- ***Wolverine*** by *Chris Claremont & Frank Miller*
- ***Wolverine: Weapon X*** by *Barry Windsor-Smith*
- ***Wolverine: Origin*** by *Paul Jenkins & Adam Kubert*
- ***Wolverine: Not Dead Yet*** by *Warren Ellis & Leinil Yu*
- ***Wolverine & the X-Men*** by *Jason Aaron & Chris Bachalo*
- Single issue stories by *Larry Hama, Mark Millar, Dave Cockrum, Jim Lee, & Kaare Andrews,* among others.

" Wolverine is the *Clint Eastwood* of comic book characters, an enigmatic loner with a sin-riddled past that he's desperate to atone for, even if he won't outright admit it," explained *Axel Alonso,* Editor In Chief, Marvel Entertainment. "With such a rich history, fans of the character are in for a real treat, because even if they've read all the stories before, with the *Adamantium Collection*—they've never read them like this!"

"We have never compiled a collection as massive in terms of page count, size *and* weight, so fans better prepare their coffee tables and bookshelves for this one," said *Ruwan Jayatilleke,* Associate Publisher, Marvel Entertainment. "With this collection, we're giving fans the ultimate collection, the ultimate collectible and ultimate guide to one of the most popular characters in comics today!"

The lavish, deluxe slipcased hardcover will also featured special augmented reality content accessible through Marvel's free AR app, including cover recaps, behind the scenes features and more that add value to your reading experience at no additional cost.

Wolverine: The Adamantium Collection HC, a $200 volume, is slated for June release.

Leaving Lost Vegas

Think the gambling life can be problematic here on Earth? Just wait 'til you see how much more difficult it can be when the casino is a luxury space station where the highest rollers in the galaxy routinely gamble big. Sometimes they win, and sometimes they lose... but in the

COMIC SHOP NEWS

Published weekly since 1987 by Comic Shop News, Inc.

©2013 Comic Shop News, Inc. All Rights Reserved

EDITORS Cliff Biggers, Ward Batty

Editorial Office
2770 Carillon Crossing
Marietta, GA 30066
cliffbig@comicshopnews.com

Business Office
3577-A Chamblee-Tucker Rd. #215
Atlanta, GA 30341
(770) 939-1364
wbatty@csnsider.com

www.csnsider.com
twitter.com/csnsider

Printed by Transcontinental Interglobe, Beauceville, QC, Canada

SPIDER-MAN

BY STAN LEE & LARRY LIEBER

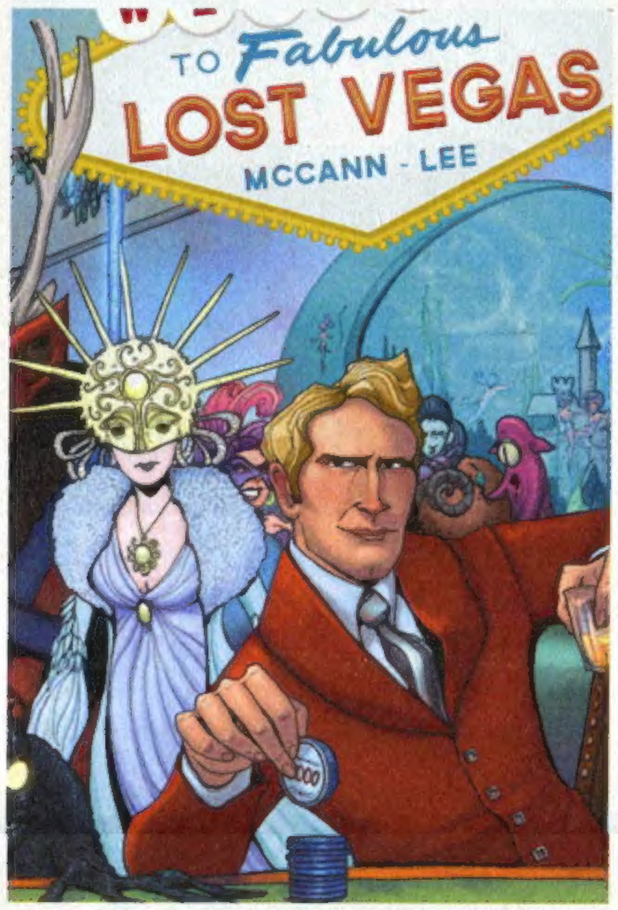
©2013 Marvel Characters, Inc. All Rights Reserved. Distributed by King Features Syndicate

world of the space station ***Lost Vegas,*** the losers find themselves forced to work off their debts as indentured servants.

That's the world of ***Lost Vegas,*** the new series by *Jim McCann & Janet Lee,* the acclaimed creators of the graphic novel ***Return of the Dapper Men.*** The four-part miniseries follows a con-man gambler named Roland who finds himself enslaved to the casino when his risked everything... and lost. Now he has a plan to steal back his freedom—but in order to do so, he has 24 hours to pull off the heist of the millenium.

"The system of 'working off debt' is rigged in the houses' favor, like most things," *Jim McCann* said. "It'll never happen. For him, there's only one option: ...cheat the system, get enough money to get a ship, and escape the cruiser with a new life."

"Artistically, ***Lost Vegas*** is the alien love child of ***The Hustler*** and ***The Wizard of Oz,***" *Janet Lee* added. "It's filled with alien opulence, every type of creature I can imagine, fabulous costumes, scoundrels, thieves, and hard-hitting grit — you know, exactly like the *real* Las Vegas."



Lost Vegas #1 is slated for March 6th release; the book will be offered with a wraparound cover by Lee, a second cover by *Dan McDaid,* and a 1-for-10 incentive cover by *Francesco Francavilla.*

The Mark of Zero!

This spring, Valiant Entertainment continues its line of special standalone zero issues with two new offerings: ***Shadowman #0*** and ***Archer & Armstrong #0,*** each of which offers a great jumping-on point for readers who'd like to learn more about the popular series.

Shadowman #0, produced by *Justin Jordan, Patrick Zircher, & Trevor Hairsine,* chronicles the rise and fall of the 20th century Shadowman. 25 years ago, Josiah Boniface was the Shadowman, and he had more problems than simply Master Darque – things from beyond are trying to eat the world, the police are trying to send him to jail and now he's got to rescue Helena LeBreton from a murderous cult, whether she likes it or not.

Archer & Armstrong #0, produced by *Fred Van Lente & Clayton Henry,* offers an insightful look into the early days of the man known as Armstrong. So how early are we talking about here? Well, howsabout ancient Ur early? For the first time, the 100% true story behind the Epic of Gilgamesh can be told… A tale of three warrior brothers, the Anni-Padda – better known to the Valiant Universe as Armstrong, the Eternal Warrior and Timewalker – on a quest to the mysterious Faraway. What they find is a lost land full of danger, excitement – and the greatest secret of the Valiant Universe!

Both books will be offered with standard covers, Pullbox variants, and limited incentive variants; look for them in May.

CSNsider

•DC has listened to you and is going back for another production run of ***Batman: Arkham Asylum Action Figures.*** The five-figure series, which includes ***Armored Batman, Harley Quinn, Scarecrow, Poison Ivy,*** and ***Joker With Scarface,*** are scheduled for a May 29th in-store date.

•DC has changed the 1-for-50 variant covers for ***Green Arrow #17, Katana #1,*** and ***Justice League of America's Vibe #1.*** The variants will now feature a black and white version of the standard edition cover art.

•Orders for ***Tales of Batman: Archie Goodwin HC*** have been cancelled; the book will resolicit at a later date.

•Fantagraphics' complements their successful ***Complete Peanuts*** black and white volumes (each of which presents 2 years' worth of *Charles Schulz* strips) with ***Peanuts Every Sunday: 1952-1955,*** the first volume in a series of books reprinting every full-color Sunday strip. The $49.95 288-page hardcover, the first in a ten-volume set, is scheduled for fall release. The color remastering will be overseen by *Joanne Bagge.*

•***Tomb Raider*** has found a new comic book home with Drak Horse. The publisher will launch a new ***Tomb Raider*** series later this year. "The bold new vision of the game demanded we bring an equally fresh approach to the comics," said editor *Dave Marshall.* "We're excited for ***Tomb Raider*** fans to experience a new side of Lara Croft as they accompany her on the earliest parts of her first adventure."

•Boom Entertainment has landed the rights to the Cartoon Network series ***The Regular Show;*** look for their monthly comic to launch in April under their all-ages Kaboom imprint (the same imprint that serves as a home for boom's other comic based on a Cartoon Network series, ***Adventure Time***). ***The Regular Show*** wil be written by *KC Green* with art by *Allison Strejlau.*The first issue will be offered with a variety of covers by *Nick Edwards, Nathan Fox, Phil McAndrew, John Allison, Noelle Stephenson, & Chris Houghton,* as well as a variant cover by *Dustin Nguyen;* Boom will follow IDW's ***My Little Pony*** model and offer a boxed set of all six regular covers for collectors.

PEANUTS
by CHARLES M. SCHULZ
LET'S BUILD A TREE-HOUSE, CHARLIE BROWN!
WE'LL USE THIS TREE... IT'S PERFECT!
THIS WILL BE THE BEST TREE-HOUSE EVER MADE!
YOU HAVE SPOKEN A TRUISM!
WE'LL ISOLATE OURSELVES FROM THE CARES OF THIS OLD WORLD....
WE'LL BE REGULAR HERMANS!
YOU MEAN HERMITS...
I KNEW YOU'D GET THE IDEA!
THAT'S THE BEST PART OF IT ALL—NO ONE WILL BE ABLE TO BOTHER US BECAUSE NOBODY ELSE CAN GET UP HERE!
LET'S GO GET OUR PROVISIONS
JUST THINK OF IT... OUR OWN PRIVATE TREE-HOUSE!
I CAN'T GET OVER IT... A PLACE THAT NO ONE ELSE CAN GET TO!
!

•And speaking of ***Adventure Time,*** Boom is also producing an ***Adventure Time Original Graphic Novel*** in April, courtesy of *Danielle Corsetto & Zack Sterling.* The book will focus on Finn's love interest, Flame Princess.

•Great news: *Peter David,* the fan-favorite comics writer who suffered a stroke on December 29th, has made remarkable progress in his recovery and should be back home by the time you read this. "I am happy to report that the folks here at Brooks [he rehab facility where he was transferred] are so satisfied with my progress that they're sending me home early," David wrote on his blog, peterdavid.net . "I was originally scheduled to leave on February 15, but I've been blowing through the program so quickly that they feel comfortable with sending me home a week early." He has continued to write using Dragon Dictate, which is great news for those who want to find out what his has in store for upcoming issues of ***X-Factor!***

•Fantagraphics' EC reprint program continues later this year with more volumes spotlighting the works of individual artists. In addition to upcoming volumes spotlighting the work of *Johnny Craig* (***Fall Guy for Murder & Other Stories***), *Al Feldstein* (***Child of Tomorrow! & Other Stories***), and *Jack Kamen,* Fantagraphics is compiling previously-published ***Comics Journal*** interviews with *Frank Frazetta, John Severin, Harvey Kurtzman, Will Elder, Bill Gaines,* and others in ***The Comics Journal Library: The EC Artists.***

IF THE KINGPIN'S IN SAN FRANCISCO -YAWN- WHAT HAS THAT TO DO WITH YOU?
STAN LEE
LARRY LIEBER
2-5
WWW.KINGFEATURES.COM
YOU KNOW HOW POWERFUL HE IS! SPIDER-MAN MAY BE NEEDED!
©2013 Marvel Characters, Inc.
All Rights Reserved. Distributed by King Features Syndicate
BUT PROMISE NOT TO WORRY! I'LL BE OKAY!
ZZZZZZZZ

Back to Press

- ***All-New X-Men #6 2nd Printing*** (DEC128226), featuring a variant cover by *Stuart Immonen*, in stores 3/6.
- ***Avengers #3 2nd Printing*** (DEC128228), featuring a variant cover by *Jerome Opena*, in stores 3/6.
- ***Avengers Arena #2 2nd Printing*** (DEC128178), featuring a variant cover by *Kev Walker*, in stores 2/27.
- ***Avengers Arena #3 2nd Printing*** (DEC128179), featuring a variant cover by *Kev Walker*, in stores 2/27.
- ***Avenging Spider-Man #16 2nd Printing*** (DEC128225), featuring a variant cover by *Paolo Rivera*, in stores 3/6.
- ***Bedlam #3 2nd Printing*** (DEC128204), in stores 2/27.
- ***Daredevil #22 2nd Printing*** (DEC128227), featuring a variant cover by *Chris Samnee*, in stores 3/6.
- ***Deadpool Killustrated #1 2nd Printing*** (DEC128227), featuring a variant cover by *Matteo Lolli*, in stores 3/6.
- ***Deathmatch #2 2nd Printing*** (DEC128189), in stores 2/27.
- ***Doctor Who: Prisoners of Time #1 2nd Printing*** (DEC128119), in stores 3/6.
- ***Hawkeye #7 2nd Printing*** (DEC128235), featuring a variant cover by *David Aja*, in stores 2/20.
- ***Indestructible Hulk #3 2nd Printing*** (DEC128180), featuring a variant cover by *Leinil Yu*, in stores 2/27.
- ***Invincible #100 2nd Printing*** (DEC128209), in stores 2/27.
- ***Iron Man #3 2nd Printing*** (DEC128181), featuring a variant cover by *Greg Land*, in stores 2/27.
- ***Nowhere Men #1 3rd Printing*** (DEC128205), in stores 2/27.
- ***Nowhere Men #3 2nd Printing*** (DEC128202), in stores 2/27.
- ***Peter Panzerfaust #8 2nd Printing*** (DEC128222), in stores 2/27.
- ***Saga #8 2nd Printing*** (DEC128158), in stores 2/20.
- ***Savage Wolverine #1 2nd Printing*** (DEC128162), featuring a variant cover by *Frank Cho*, in stores 2/27.
- ***Star Wars #1 3rd Printing*** (DEC128188), in stores 2/27.
- ***Superior Spider-Man #2 2nd Printing*** (DEC128234), featuring a variant cover by *Ryan Stegman*, in stores 2/20.
- ***Todd, the Ugliest Kid on Earth #1 2nd Printing*** (DEC128159), in stores 2/20.
- ***Walking Dead Michonne Special 2nd Printing*** (DEC128210), in stores 3/6.
- ***Young Avengers #1 2nd Printing*** (DEC128183), featuring a limited edition *Bryan Lee O'Malley* sketch cover, in stores 3/6.

ALL NEW X-MEN #8 NOW

Brian Bendis (W); David Marquez (A)

(Marvel JAN130674 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

The original X-Men are having enough trouble adjusting to the contemporary Marvelverse—so how are the contemporary Avengers going to feel about the original X-Men?

Why Should You Care?

Brian Bendis's time-tossed mutants offer readers a great chance to see the modern Marvel Universe through a new set of eyes—and a possible opportunity to change the future direction of Marvel's mutants. But most of all, it reminds us of all the potential contained within the original X-Men... and it maximizes that potential!

AQUAMAN #18

Geoff Johns (W); Paul Pelletier (A)

(DC JAN130209 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

In the aftermath of "Throne of Atlantis," Aquaman must pick up the pieces of his life... but is there enough left to carry on?

Why Should You Care?

For the past year and a half, *Geoff Johns* has made it abundantly clear that Aquaman is *not* a B-list hero. With that established, it's now time to move on to Phase Two of the New 52 Aquaman's life...

BATMAN #18

Scott Snyder (W); Andy Kubert (A)

(DC JAN130234 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

In the wake of "Death of the Family" and the pain it has brought to Batman's world, the Dark Knight is in danger of losing his humanity. Will Harper Row be able to pull him back from the brink?

Why Should You Care?

This powerful tale by *Scott Snyder* reminds us that there is still a very human man behind the cowl... and when it comes to conveying the strength of human emotion, there are few more capable than guest artist *Andy Kubert*.

BLOODSHOT (ONGOING) #9

Duane Swierczynski (W); Manuel Garcia (A)

(Valiant JAN131312 $3.99)

HARBINGER (ONGOING) #10

Joshua Dysart (W); Pere Perez (A)

(Valiant JAN131310 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

On one side, Peter Stanchek and his band of renegade telekinetics struggle against those who would put their powers to use for their own purposes. On the other side, a man who can't remember his own past must decide which path is right for him—killer or savior. And without knowing it, both sides are approaching a pivotal confrontation...

Why Should You Care?

Joshua Dysart & Duane Swierczynski lay the groundwork for April's ***Harbinger Wars*** in these two issues—so if you want to beat the rush, start reading early and get up to speed!

CSN TOP

CONSTANTINE #1

Jeff Lemire & Ray Fawkes (W); Renato Guedes (A)

(DC JAN130262 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

Liar, cheater manipulator... the qualities that define John Constantine seem antithetical to a hero. Nevertheless, a hero he is—one who uses his skills to protect the world from the darkest corners of the DC Universe.

Why Should You Care?

The star of ***Justice League Dark*** graduates to his own series at last—and now that ***Hellblazer*** has come to an end, this is the one and only series where you'll see John Constantine in solo action!

DOCTOR WHO: PRISONERS OF TIME #3 (OF 12)

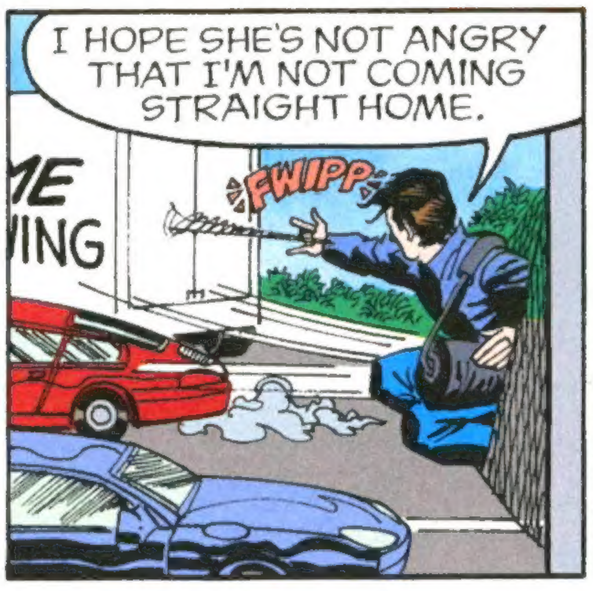
David Tipton & Scott Tipton (W); Mike Collins (A)

(IDW JAN130419 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

The Third Doctor gets his moment in the spotlight as the year-long saga continues.

CAN'T BLAME MJ FOR DOZING OFF WHILE I EXPLAINED WHY I'M HEADED FOR FRISCO.
IT'S AFTER MIDNIGHT IN NEW YORK.
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 2-6
WWW.KINGFEATURES.COM


I HOPE SHE'S NOT ANGRY THAT I'M NOT COMING STRAIGHT HOME.
FWIPP
©2013 Marvel Characters, Inc. All Rights Reserved. Distributed by King Features Syndicate

COMICS: MARCH

Why Should You Care?

If you're a Doctor Who fan, this is a dream come true: one epic adventure featuring all eleven incarnations of the Doctor! It might be another fifty years before you see anything like this again!

DREW HAYES' POISON ELVES #1

Robb Horan (W); Osvaldo Pestana Montpeller (A)

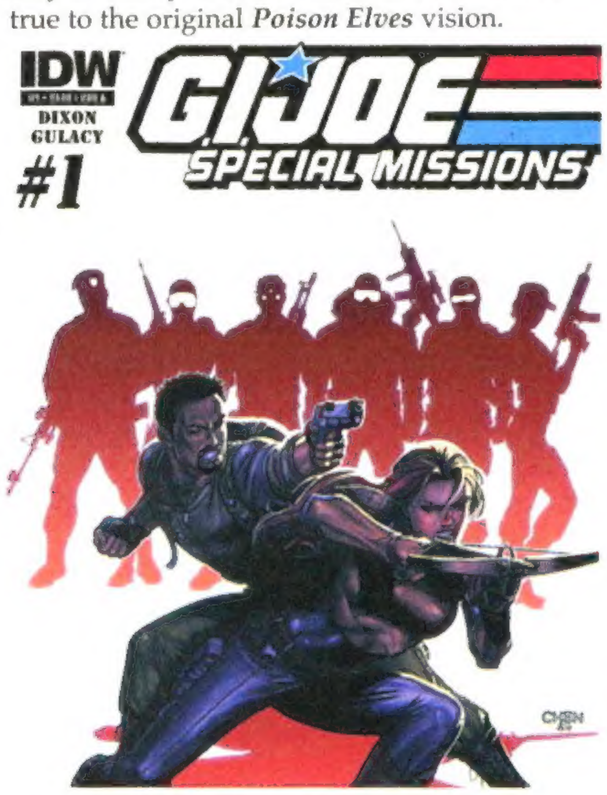
(Ape JAN130830 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

After an absence of several years, Lusiphur and the rest of the ***Poison Elves*** return in this relaunch of the indy favorite.

Why Should You Care?

The creation of the late *Drew Hayes*, ***Poison Elves*** has been missing since Hayes' death—but now it's back. Writer *Robb Horan* is picking up right where Hayes left off, and is working with Hayes' family to make sure this book remains true to the original ***Poison Elves*** vision.



GI JOE SPECIAL MISSIONS #1

Chuck Dixon (W); Paul Gulacy (A)

(IDW JAN130356 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

The Baroness tries to get back into Cobra's good grades... and it's up to Scarlett to assemble a team to take the villainess down!

Why Should You Care?

Is there a more accomplished action-adventure creative team than *Chuck Dixon* and *Paul Gulacy?* A high-profile relaunch deserves high-profile creators—and that's just what ***GI Joe*** fans are getting here.

GUARDIANS OF GALAXY #1 NOW

Brian Bendis (W); Steve McNiven (A)

(Marvel JAN130642 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

Why has Earth become the most important planet in the galaxy, off limits to every cosmic brigand and ne'er-do-well? The Guardian of the Galaxy are about to find out in this new series featuring Star Lord, Gamora, Drax, Rocket Raccoon, Groot, and... Iron Man?

Why Should You Care?

Well, there's this ***Guardians of the Galaxy*** movie in the works, you see... and Marvel has brought in superstar talents like *Brian Bendis & Steve McNiven* to make ***Guardians*** an A-list team for the first time in Marvel history!

JUDGE DREDD YEAR ONE #1

Matthew J. Smith (W); Simon Coleby (A)

(IDW JAN130372 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

How did Judge Dredd become The Law? Find out in this riveting limited series.

Why Should You Care?

He's been a hero for more than a third of a century, but we know remarkably little about his formative years—an oversight that's being remedied at last.

JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA #2

Geoff Johns (W); David Finch (A)

(DC JAN130195 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

The new Justice League of America team continues to form, but the question remains: What do these heroes want in return for their membership?

Why Should You Care?

Geoff Johns' expansion of the Justice League franchise continues—and if you know Johns, you know that when he's telling the story, every character is an A-lister! And if that's not enough to intrigue you, then perhaps you'll want to check out the Manhunter backup series that reveals J'onn J'onnz's plans for this team... and the *other* Justice League!

LOST VEGAS #1 (OF 4)

Jim McCann (W); Janet Lee (A)

(Image JAN130473 $3.50)

What's the Scoop?

On a luxurious casino-filled space station, a gambler-turned-slave has 24 hours to pull off the greatest heist the universe has ever seen... and if he loses, he is destined to life as an indentured servant to the casino!

Why Should You Care?

In case you forgot, *Jim McCann & Janet Lee* are the award-winning creators of ***The Return of the Dapper Men***—and this is their first major project since that acclaimed graphic novel. And that's all the reason any comics fan needs!...

MARK WAID'S GREEN HORNET #1

Mark Waid (W); Daniel Indro (A)

(Dynamite JAN131019 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

The Green Hornet faces his most dangerous enemy ever—his own alter ego, Britt Reid! In his everyday identity as a newspaper publisher, Reid has lost control, becoming the ultimate populist and social crusader... but then he goes too far!

Why Should You Care?

Dynamite has enlisted one of modern comics' most skilled storytellers to revamp the Green Hornet—and that's just what *Mark Waid* intends to do with this story that takes the classic crimefighter back to his fundamental elements, reminding us what makes the Hornet different from every other hero.

NEMO: HEART OF ICE HC

Alan Moore (W); Kevin O'Neill (A)

(Top Shelf DEC121247 $14.95)

What's the Scoop?

Janni Dakkar once tried to escape the legacy of her famous father, but now she's embraced her destiny as the new Nemo, captain of the legendary Nautilus. And now she's determined to succeed where her father failed as she launches on a mission to explore Antarctica, and not even the trio of genius inventors under the direction of Charles Foster Kane can prevent her from completing her quest.

Why Should You Care?

Thought that ***The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen*** had come to an end! Think again! Moore and O'Neill are back with a solo tale that we hope are the first of many ***LoEG*** stand-alone spotlight adventures!

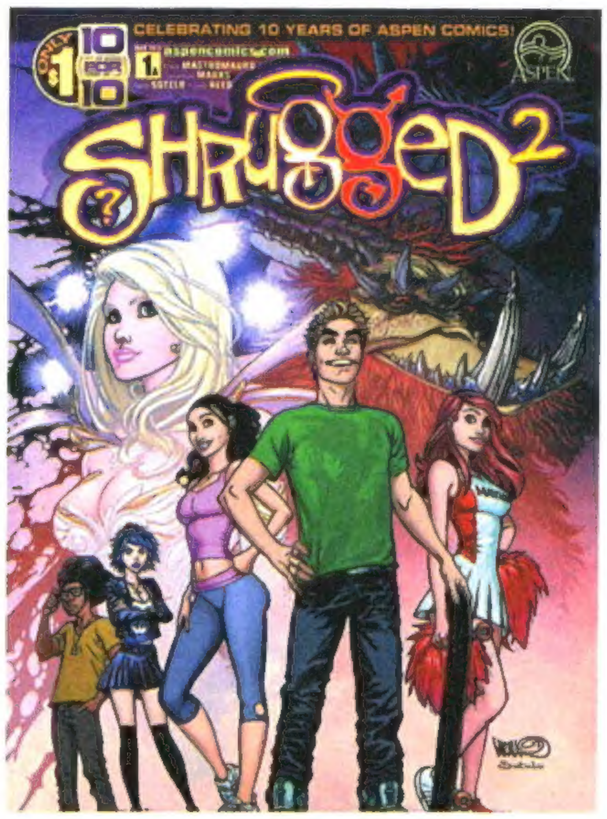
SHRUGGED VOL 2 #1 (OF 6)

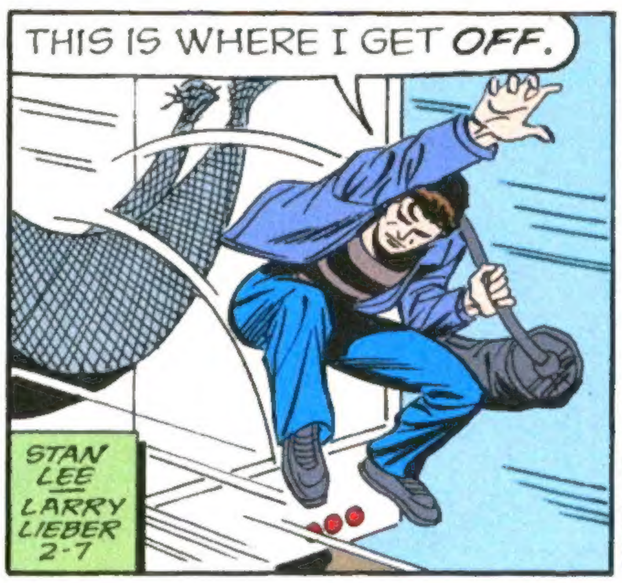
Frank Mastromauro (@); Micah Gunnell & Jonathan Marks (A)

(Aspen JAN130867 $1.00)

What's the Scoop?

Theo and his friends are entering their final year of high school, with Ange and Dev are still along for the ride. But, everything isn't all fun and games this time around as an evil force has also returned and is preparing to silence those voices inside their heads...permanently!





SAN FRANCISCO!
--AND THE DEADLY KINGPIN!
©2013 Marvel Characters, Inc. All Rights Reserved. Distributed by King Features Syndicate

Why Should You Care?

A sleeper hit in its first incarnation, ***Shrugged*** is back in an all-new series—and to make it impossible to resist, Aspen is offering the full-length first issue for only $1. Don't shrug this one off!

TIME WARP #1

Dan Abnett, Damon Lindeloff, Matt Kindt, & others (W); Jeff Lemire, Mark Buckingham, Victor Santos, Matt Kindt, & others (A)

(Vertigo/DC JAN130333 $7.99)

What's the Scoop?

Robots, spaceships, time travel—it all can be found in the pages of this SF anthology series with a Vertigo edge.

Why Should You Care?

Vertigo's prior SF, horror, and suspense anthologies have featured some of the best in sophisticated storytelling, and ***Time Warp*** is no exception. And with a creative team of this caliber, would you expect any less?

WOLVERINE #1 NOW

Paul Cornell (W); Alan Davis (A)

(Marvel JAN130653 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

When Wolverine finds himself the bargaining chip in a hostage situation, he must make a decision to save a little boy that will follow him forever...literally! But how can a berserker fight what he can't see?

Why Should You Care?

Paul Cornell & Alan Davis strip away all the superteam and focus on Wolverine the man... and the mutant. *This* is the Wolverine fans know and love!

Event of the Month

AGE OF ULTRON #1 (OF 10)

Brian Bendis (W); Bryan Hitch (A)

(Marvel JAN130627 $3.99)

AGE OF ULTRON #2 (OF 10)

Brian Bendis (W); Bryan Hitch (A)

(Marvel JAN130634 $3.99)

AGE OF ULTRON #3 (OF 10)

Brian Bendis (W); Bryan Hitch (A)

(Marvel JAN130637 $3.99)

FANTASTIC FOUR #5AU NOW

Matt Fraction (W)

(Marvel JAN130640 $3.99)

SUPERIOR SPIDER-MAN #6AU NOW

(W) Christos N. Gage (A) Dexter Soy

(Marvel JAN130641 $3.99)

Marvel has alluded to this story for more than a year—and now it's here! Ultron is now prepared to fulfill its desire to wipe out all organic life and take over Earth. Can the Marvel heroes find some way to stop the ultimate artificial intelligence from completing its mission? The war between Ultron and the Marvelverse begins here, and it will continue into the summer, spanning a ten-issue core series and crossing over into a number of special ***Age of Ultron*** tie-in issues that stand apart from those series' standard continuity—sort of an ***Age of Ultron*** take on the Point One approach, if you will. The goal is to keep this a must-read event that can stand on its own, just as Marvel did with ***Avengers Vs. X-Men***—and as was the case with that event storyline, they intend to make ***Age of Ultron*** so crucial that you can't afford *not* to read it!

Check 'Em Out: Comics You *Should* Be Reading!

ACTION COMICS #18

(DC JAN130221 $3.99)

Just when you thought he had left ***Action Comics*** forever, *Grant Morrison* surprises us! Turns out that his ***Action #17*** finale was so big that he couldn't wrap it up in a single issue, so we get one more Morrison issue! Don't miss the end to the best series to come out of the New 52 launch!

ALL STAR WESTERN #18

(DC JAN130275 $3.99)

Jonah Hex gets involved in a kidnapping in Gotham... and the victim is one Catherine Wayne! And if that's not enough DCU history for you, Vandal Savage also plays a crucial role in this tale. If you think ***Jonah Hex*** is just another Western, you haven't been paying attention!

CROSSED BADLANDS #25

(Avatar JAN130884 $3.99)

Garth Ennis returns to the series he created to present a four-part tale following a group of soldiers on a quest to wipe out the Crossed and reclaim Britain. (Pardon us if we suspect this plan isn't going to work out well...)

ELIZABETH'S CANVAS TP

(IDW JAN130439 $17.99)

Comics creators from across the industry interview the people behind the struggle with cancer—the patients, the nurses, the survivors, the researchers—and tell their stories, tales of defiance, perseverance, dedication and triumph. Nor only will you discover an unforgettable array of intensely personal tales in these pages, but you'll be helping a good cause: all the proceeds are going to help Elizabeth's Canvas, which provides cancer patients, survivors, and their family members with art, photography, dance, and writing classes, at no charge, so that they can better cope with their symptoms and improve their well-being.

SIMPSONS COMICS #200

(Bongo JAN130940 $2.99)

Bongo celebrates its 20th year and landmark 200th issue of Simpsons Comics with an extra-special, supersized historical saga about (what else?) the bicentennial celebration of the history of Springfield. If Springfield's involved, though, you *know* this won't be your ordinary bicentennial tale...

VAMPIRELLA: NUBLOOD ONE SHOT

(Dynamite JAN131053 $4.99)

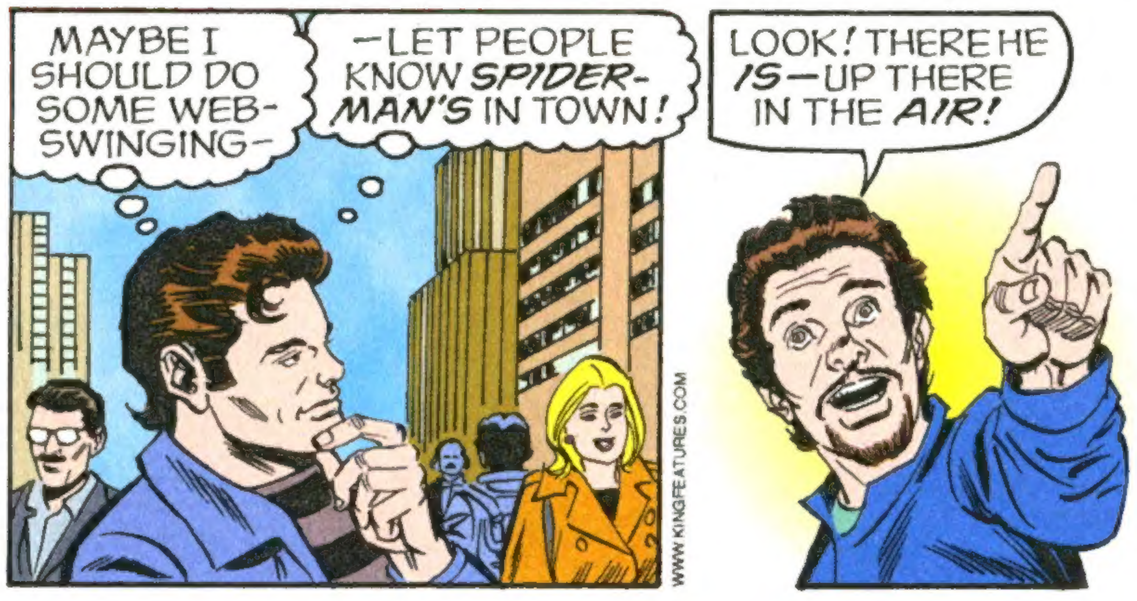
Last year, Vampirella offered a twisted take on ***Twilight***. A few months ago, Vampi poked fun at ***Buffy the Vampire Slayer***. And now, Vampi turns its attention to the South for this ***True Blood***-esque tale of out-of-the-closet vampires and synthetic blood.

FYI: A Must-Have Addition to Your Reference Library

ART OF VAMPIRELLA: WARREN COVERS HC

(Dynamite NOV121063 $39.99)

Every cover from Warren's ***Vampirella #s 1-112*** and the ***1972 Annual*** is presented in this book, *sans* logos or overtype, to let fans and art aficionados enjoy the works of *Frank Frazetta, Sanjulian, Ken Kelly,* and others as they should be seen.



IT'S DAREDEVIL!
UH-OH. IT MIGHT GET A BIT CROWDED UP THERE.
STAN LEE
LARRY LIEBER
2-8
©2013 Marvel Characters, Inc. All Rights Reserved. Distributed by King Features Syndicate

ALONG THE BORDER OF THE YALU RIVER, THE KOREAN WAR STILL FESTERS... AND, IN OCCUPIED KOREA, FROM PYONGYANG TO WONSAN, THE HILLS SWARM WITH NORTH KOREAN GUERILLAS! TWO JEEP LOADS OF UNITED NATIONS SOLDIERS ARE TRAVELING TO WONSAN, TRAVELING THE COAST ROAD UP FROM KOSONG, TRAVELING RIGHT INTO A NORTH KOREAN...
AMBUSH!
OBSERVE! THEY ARE TWO VEHICLES INSTEAD OF ONE!
IT IS JUST AS WELL! TAKE CARE NOT TO FIRE UNTIL THEY STRIKE THE WIRE!
SAY, CAPTAIN! WASN'T THERE BEEN SOME GUERILLA ACTIVITY GOING ON HERE? IS THERE ANY DANGER?
CAN'T TELL! WE'VE CHASED MOST OF 'EM INTO THE HILLS! BUT KEEP YOUR CARBINE READY ANYHOW!
(RELAX, PRETTY BOY!)
YOU DON'T SEEM TO BE WORRIED MUCH, LUCKY! HOW DO YOU DO IT?
WE-E-ELL, I'LL TELL YOU, PRETTY BOY, THE SECRET IS ALL IN HERE... INSIDE MY HELMET LINER.

JACK DAVIS EC STORIES ARTIST EDITION HC

(IDW DEC120481 $225.00)

This enormous hardcover, meticulously scanned from the original art and reproduced in full color to show every nuance of the original art (corrections, paste-ups, stains, and all!), features a stunning selection of some of Davis' best and most memorable stories and an extensive cover gallery, all at the same size as originally drawn!

OF COMICS & MEN: CULTURAL HISTORY OF AMERICAN COMIC BOOKS SC

(University Press of Mississippi DEC121356 $35.00)

This English language edition of a fascinating study first published in France traces the rise and development of the American comic book industry from the 1930s to the present, looking at comics as both an art form and an industry.

SECRET HISTORY OF MARVEL COMICS HC: KIRBY EMPIRE

(Fantagraphics JAN131165 $35.00)

Everyone knows about the Marvel Age of Comics... but what about Marvel *beyond* comics? This fascinating book by *Blake Bell & Michael J. Vassallo* looks at the sensationalistic pulps and sexy magazines that were also a part of Marvel's stock in trade—pulps and magazines that featured work by such greats as *Jack Kirby, Joe Simon,* and *Bill Everett.*

Collected Cool: March's Best Reprint Editions

BATMAN: GOTHAM BY GASLIGHT TP

(DC DEC120332 $12.99)

The stunning ***Gotham by Gaslight,*** featuring superlative artwork by none other that *Mike Mignola,* is collected alongside the sequel, ***Master of the Future,*** in a single bargain-priced collection.

POGO: COMPLETE SYNDICATED STRIPS HC VOL 2—BALDERDASH

(Fantagraphics OCT121089 $39.99)

Fantagraphics' comprehensive reprinting of this pivotal comic strip continues with this compendium of *Walt Kelly* strips from 1952 and 1953, with the Sunday strips reproduced in full color.

SHOWCASE PRESENTS SGT ROCK TP VOL 4

(DC NOV120267 $19.99)

Robert Kanigher & Joe Kubert proved that war comics could be much more than stories of military combat, as this collection of tales from ***Our Army at War #s 181-216*** brilliantly illustrates. Undoubtedly the finest war comic ever produced...

SIMON & KIRBY HC LIBRARY: SCIENCE FICTION

(Titan DEC121235 $49.95)

Editor *Steve Saffel* presents a heaping helping of *Joe Simon & Jack Kirby* SF tales; this volume includes their work alongside collaborations with other comics legends such as *Al Williamson, Angelo Torres, Reed Crandall, & Wally Wood.*

SLEEPER OMNIBUS HC

(Vertigo/DC OCT120298 $75.00)

Ed Brubaker & Sean Phillips' ***Point Blank #s 1-5, Sleeper #s 1-24, Coup D'Etat: Sleeper #1,*** and ***Coup D'Etat: Afterward*** is collected in a single massive volume.

SPIDER-MAN: DYING WISH PREMIUM HC

(Marvel NOV120768 $19.99)

The Peter Parker/Doctor Octopus ***Freaky Friday*** tale from ***Amazing Spider-Man #s 698-700*** features the origin of Peter Parktopus, laying the groundwork for ***Superior Spider-Man.***

STRANGE WORLD OF YOUR DREAMS: COMICS MEET FREUD & DALI HC

(IDW JAN130459 $29.99)

Another must-have Simon & Kirby collection, this volume compiles some of their best dream-inspired tales from the 1950s.

SUPERMAN: THE DEATH AND RETURN OF SUPERMAN OMNIBUS HC

(DC NOV120276 $99.99)

This massive collection of the entire history-making saga includes ***Superman #s 73-82, Man of Steel #s 17-26, Adventures of Superman #s 496-505,*** and much more.

UNAUTHORIZED TARZAN HC

(Dark Horse NOV120054 $29.99)

In the early 1960s, Charlton Comics launched a short-lived and thoroughly unauthorized ***Tarzan*** series, wrongly assuming the character had fallen into the public domain. Now the entire run of the *Joe Gill-Sam Glanzman* book is complied in a single fully-authorized edition!

Hot Commodities: March's Hottest Merchandising & Collectibles

DC BATMAN AUTOMOBILIA FIGURE COLLECTORS MAGAZINE #3 2005 BATMAN BEGINS TUMBLER

(Eaglemoss DEC121345 $20.00)

DC BATMAN AUTOMOBILIA FIGURE COLLECTORS MAGAZINE #4 BATMAN FOREVER MOVIE BATMOBILE

(Eaglemoss DEC121346 $20.00)

Maybe you heard that *George Barris's* original Batmobile sold for $4.6 million recently; well, here's your chance to own an entire fleet of Batmobiles for a *lot* less money. Each issue combines an informative history of the Bat-vehicle with a die-cast 1:43 scale reproduction of the classic vehicle, all packaged in a plastic case with a unique 3-D lenticular backdrop.

GENTLE GIANT HULK BOOKEND

(Gentle Giant JAN131749 $139.00)

GENTLE GIANT THING BOOKEND

Gentle Giant JAN131750 $139.00

We may remember them as perpetual opponents, but this time the Hulk and the Thing are working together to keep your books from falling over! Not only are they striking sculptures, but they actually serve a pretty vital purpose!

GENTLE GIANT VENOM MINI-BUST

(Gentle Giant OCT121694 $85.00)

Gentle Giant continues its line of detailed mini-busts with this high-quality polystone casting of Spidey's dark adversary.

IRON MAN MODULAR ARMOR STATUE

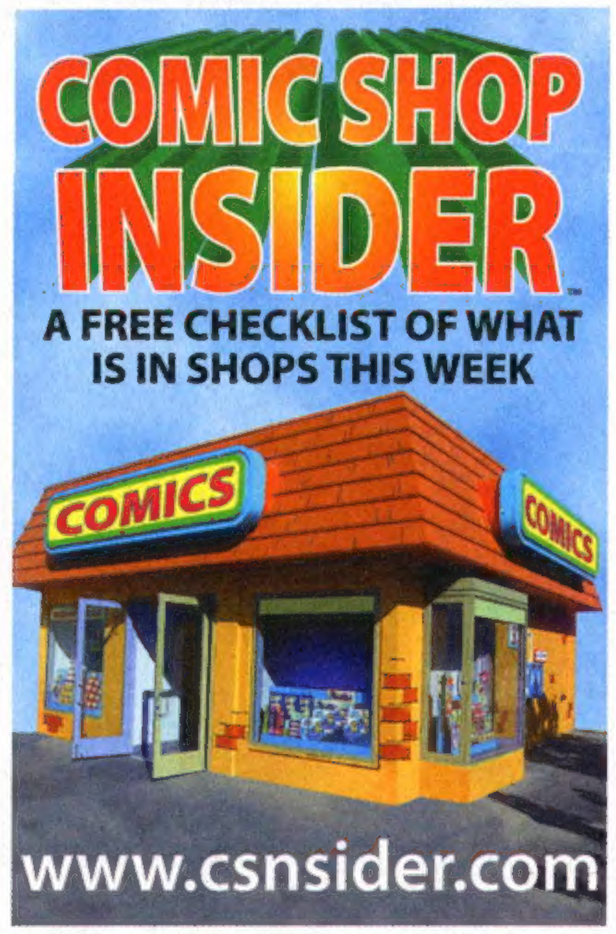
(Bowen DEC121688 $200.00)

Khurram Alavi sculpts the unique techno-armor first presented in ***Iron Man #300*** unique techno-armor for this 12" statue produced with the quality and attention to detail that Bowen is known for

VERTIGO COVER GIRLS DEATH STATUE

(DC Collectibles NOV120314 $99.95)

Jack Matthews presents the first Vertigo entry in the Cover Girls statue line, a detailed rendition of one of the favorite members of the Endless family.



HOW LONG HAS DAREDEVIL BEEN HERE IN FRISCO?
HE'S BEEN DIVIDING HIS TIME BETWEEN HERE AND NEW YORK FOR A WHILE NOW—
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 2-9
AND THE NAME OF THIS TOWN IS SAN FRANCISCO-- NOT "FRISCO"!
SORRY.
©2013 Marvel Characters, Inc. All Rights Reserved. Distributed by King Features Syndicate

Follow *Spider-Man* every week in *Comic Shop News*!

DC COMICS™
FLYING THE FLAG OF JUSTICE... BUT WHERE DO THEY PLEDGE THEIR ALLEGIANCE?
JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA® #1
A NEW MONTHLY SERIES FROM THE SUPERSTAR TEAM OF
GEOFF JOHNS ★ DAVID FINCH
FEBRUARY 2013